

XXIX.—*A Tenth additional List of Birds from Natal.*

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[Continued from 'The Ibis,' 1868, p. 471.]

IN consequence of some corrections in the synonymy of *Drymoica flavicans*, to be subsequently noticed, the first two species in the present list will stand respectively as No. 314A and No. 315A.

314A. *HAPALODERMA NARINA* (Vicill.). African Trogon.

Sent by Mr. Ayres with the following note:—"I have frequently seen this species in the bush around D'Urban, and have heard its melancholy note, leading one to suppose that the bird was at a great distance, when it was actually within twenty or thirty yards; the sportsman, labouring under this delusion, scrambles through the dense tangled underwood, thinking he will be more careful when he gets near the bird, and so seldom gets a shot. One first catches sight of the bird as it darts round some bush and is immediately lost to view. It is generally solitary, though sometimes two or three may be seen together or near each other. The sexes appear to be similar, their food consists of insects; the skin of this bird is excessively thin, reminding one of wet tissue-paper, the fall from the tree when shot frequently spoils the specimen, the feathers being very loose in the skin. Iris hazel, bill light ash-colour; length 12 inches, wing 5 inches, tail 7 inches."

315A. *DRYMOICA SUBRUFICAPILLA*, Smith. Tawny-headed Drymoica.

Sent by Mr. Ayres with the following note:—"Shot in September at the Karkloof, in Natal, amongst long grass at the edge of the forest that clothes the Kloof near the main road."

316. *HIRUNDO SEMIRUFA*, Sund. Rufous-breasted Swallow.

Specimens of this and the twelve succeeding species, all obtained in Natal, are contained in the rich collection of Mr. R. B. Sharpe*, to whom I am indebted for the fact of their occurrence in that colony.

* This fine collection is, I understand, about to be transferred to the British Museum.

317. *MEROPS NUBICOIDES*, Des Murs. Carmine-throated Bee-eater.

318. *CINNYRIS TALATALA*, Smith. Andersson's Sun-bird.

319. *MOTACILLA VAILLANTI*, Cab. Levaillant's Wagtail.

320. *PYCNONOTUS TRICOLOR*, Hartl. Angola Bulbul.

321. *TURDUS GUTTATUS*, Vig. Vigors's Thrush.

322. *LANIARIUS ATROCOCINEUS* (Burch.). Southern Crimson-breasted Shrike.

323. *UROLESTES MELANOLEUCUS* (Smith). South-African Long-tailed Shrike.

324. *HYPHANTORNIS SUBAUREUS* (Smith). Algoa-Bay Weaverbird.

325. *HYPHANTORNIS NIGRICEPS*, Layard. Black-headed Weaverbird.

326. *EUPLECTES TAHA*, Smith. Taha Bishopbird.

327. *CORYTHAIX MUSOPHAGUS*, Dubois. Cape Touraco.

328. *BARBATULA LEUCOTIS*, Sund. White-checked Barbet.

329. *PEOCEPHALUS ROBUSTUS* (Gmel.). Levaillant's Parrot.

Mr. E. C. Buxton informs me that during a recent visit to Natal he saw two young Parrots in that colony which had been respectively taken from nests at "Cremer's, Unyeni Falls." One of these he identified as a specimen of *P. robustus*; the other, which was of a much smaller species, he was unable satisfactorily to identify, in consequence of the bad condition of its plumage.

330. *NUMIDA VERREAUXII*, Elliot. Verreaux's Guinea-fowl. Sent by Mr. Ayres with the following note:—

"These fine Guinea-fowls I got in the month of July at D'Urban, Natal, where they were being hawked about the town by Caffre hunters as birds for the table, the flesh being uncommonly delicate and good.

"They frequent the densest bush immediately on the searange, and are difficult to get; the best method is with dogs accustomed to hunt the bush, as the birds, when chased, take

to the trees, and a good dog will bark until his master manages with much trouble to get to the spot through brambles, thorny bushes, and nettles innumerable ; and then, if due care is taken to approach without noise, the birds may be potted from the tree, a flying shot being totally out of the question.

“These Guinea-fowls are to be found from the Bay of Natal northwards ; but, so far as I can learn, not a single bird is to be found to the south, although the bush-range is precisely similar. The male bird measures from 23 to 25 inches in total length, the bill $1\frac{1}{2}$, the tarsus $3\frac{1}{2}$, the wing $10\frac{1}{2}$, and the tail $5\frac{1}{2}$.

“The bare skin of the sides of the head, chin, throat, and upper neck is black, but whitish on the occiput ; the iris is dusky ; tarsi and feet ashy. In the female the crest is rather smaller than in the male, as are also the spots on the plumage ; with these exceptions there is but little difference in the appearance of the sexes.”

331. TANTALUS IBIS, Linn. African Roseate Ibis.

Sent by Mr. Ayres with the following note :—

“This specimen was shot by my brother at Port Natal, amongst the mangroves at low water on the edge of the inner harbour ; there were two of them ; and others have been seen at the same spot subsequently. This bird was wounded by my brother’s shot ; and as he approached it made a curious snapping noise with its bill, but did not attempt to defend itself.”

I may take this opportunity of recording a note respecting a species which has been already included in my lists of birds from Natal, *Buphaga erythrorhyncha* (*vide* Ibis, 1863, p. 328). I am not aware that this species has been hitherto observed to consort with its congener *Buphaga africana* ; but Mr. E. C. Buxton has been so good as to give me an adult specimen of each, which he shot in company on 28th August, 1872, near the Asuto river in Suari Land, a little to the north of the colony of Natal. Mr. Buxton writes to me, “The two Buphagas I shot at the same time on some oxen, one of each species off the same cow ; and I could not distinguish them on the wing. There were several others shot at the same time,

and in the proportion of one of the red-billed birds to two of the others."

Another subject as to which I am also desirous of recording an additional note, is the synonymy of the *Cisticola* from Natal, for which Dr. Hartlaub proposed the name of *C. ayresii* (*vide* Ibis, 1863, p. 325).

The examination of numerous specimens of *Drymoica terrestris*, Smith, of which a typical example is preserved in the British Museum, has convinced me that *C. ayresii* is identical with this species; and I have further arrived at the conclusion that the latter is not separable from the Europæo-Asiatic *Cisticola cursitans* (Frankl.), although specimens from tropical and southern Africa are frequently rather brighter in their tints than those from more northern localities.

In 'The Ibis' for 1871, p. 152, I gave the measurements of eight specimens of *Cisticola* from various localities; and I am now able to furnish the measurements of several others, all of which I consider should be referred to *C. cursitans*.

From	Wing. in. lin.	Tarsus. lines.	Middle toe without claw. lines.
Sicily, not sexed	2 0	9	6
Do., do.	1 10	9	6
Algeria, do.	2 1	9	5
Do., male	2 1	10	6
Do., female	1 10	9	6
Zanzibar, do.	1 9	9	5
Trans Vaal, do.	1 10	10	5½
Do., do.	1 9	10	6
Do., male	2 0	10	6
Do., do.	1 9	9	5½
Do., two males	2 0	9	5½
Do., female	1 10	9	5½
Drakenberg, Natal, Male	1 11½	10	5½
Coast of Natal, typical specimens of <i>C.</i>			
<i>ayresii</i> , one male and one female....	1 9	9	5
Eland's Post, South Africa, male	2 0	9	6
Do., not sexed	1 11	10	5
Accra, West Africa, not sexed.....	1 10	10	5
Cape-Coast, do., do.	2 1	9	5
River Volta, do., do.	2 0	9	5
Do., do., do.	1 11	9	5
Do., do., do. (two specimens)	1 10	9	5

From	Wing. in. lin.	Tarsus. lines.	Middle toe without claw. lines.
Damara Land, male	2 0	9	6
Do., do.	2 0	9	6
Do., do.	2 0	9	5
Do., do.	2 0	10	5½
Do., do.	1 11	9	5
Do., female	1 11	8	5
Do., do.	1 11	9	5
Do., do.	1 10	8½	6
Do., do.	1 9	9	6
Do., two females	1 10	9	6
Do., do.	1 10	9	5
Corresponding measurements given in Smith's 'South African Zoology' of " <i>Drymoica terrestris</i> , male"			
	2 1	10	4½

Eleven of the specimens from Damara Land included in the above Table were measured in the flesh by the late Mr. Andersson; the remaining measurements were taken by myself from dried skins.

I may add that the coloration of different individuals of this species varies much both in Trans Vaal and Damara Land as regards the intensity of their tints, which I suppose to be owing to the plumage becoming faded as the season of moulting approaches.

To refer, in conclusion, to another matter, I regret to find that in the earlier portions of my list of Natal birds, published at various times in 'The Ibis,' some errors of identification occurred, which a better knowledge of the ornithology of the district has enabled me subsequently to rectify in several instances (*vide* Ibis, 1864, p. 356, 1868, pp. 51, 147, 151, 155, 157, and 265, 1869, pp. 296 and 299, and 1871, p. 103); and I am now desirous of recording the following additional corrections, which I give in the order in which the several species were included in my former lists.

6. GYPS FULVUS should stand as *G. kolbii* (Daud.), as to the distinctness of which see Mr. Blyth's remarks in 'The Ibis' for 1870, p. 157.

54. ALCEDO QUADRIBRACHYS should be *A. semitorquata*, Swains.

36. *ISPIDINA PICTA* should be *I. natalensis* (Smith).
37. *OXYLOPHUS SERRATUS* should be *O. jacobinus* (Bodd.).
40. *CHRYSOCCYX SMARAGDINEUS* should be *C. splendidus*, Gray.
52. *ARDETTA MINUTA* should be *A. podiceps*, Bon. To this species I erroneously applied, in 'The Ibis' for 1869, p. 300, the specific name of *pusilla*, which properly belongs to the Little Bittern of Australia: *conf.* Finsch & Hartlaub's 'Vögel Ost-Afrikas,' p. 709.
71. *DRYMOICA MELANORHYNCHA* should be *D. flavicans* (Vieill.), of which *D. subflava*, No. 151, and *D. pallida*, No. 199, are also synonyms.
77. *PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA* should be *P. torquata* (Linn.), which, contrary to my former opinion, I am now disposed to regard as distinct from *P. rubicola*, in consequence of the somewhat greater extent of the white patch on the rump and upper tail-coverts, and the absence of any rufous tint from the white feathers in the centre of the abdomen and from the under tail-coverts.
83. *PLATYSTIRA PRIRIT* should stand as *P. molitor*. Cf. Sharpe *anteà*, p. 167.
102. *TURTUR SEMITORQUATUS* should be *T. capicola*, Sund.
149. *PROMEROPS CAFFER*, should be *P. gurneyi*, Verreaux; *vide* J. P. Verreaux in P. Z. S. for 1871, p. 135, pl. 8.
223. *CALAMOHERPE GRACILIROSTRIS* should be *C. babæcula* (Vieill.), as to which, and also as to the succeeding species, see Mr. Layard's remarks in 'The Ibis,' 1869, pp. 365, 366, and the editorial footnotes at p. 365.
258. *CALAMOHERPE ARUNDINACEA* should be *C. baticula* (Vieill.), or, as according to Prof. Sundevall it should be spelled, *C. baticata*, see reference under preceding species.
272. *ÆDICNEMUS SENEGALENSIS* should be *Æ. vermiculatus*, Cab.; *cf.* Finsch & Hartlaub's 'Vögel Ost-Afrikas,' p. 624.
296. *ESTRELLA CARMELITA* should be *Vidua principalis* (Linn.), immature; *conf.* Sharpe's Catalogue of African birds, No. 600.